Research Notes for Hannah Hartigan Sheppard (1805 - 1860)

Research Overview:

Hannah Hartigan Sheppard can be traced with unusual clarity from Ireland to the United States. Yet, much of her life must still be understood through the roles she occupied rather than through records created in her own name. Born in Ireland in the early nineteenth century, Hannah married Joseph Sheppard in Newport, County Tipperary, and appears repeatedly in parish records there as the mother named in her children's baptismal records. She later emigrated with her family to the United States and spent her adult life in Illinois and Iowa, where she remained closely tied to her husband, children, and extended family.

Hannah's life is notable for its continuity. She married once, raised a large family, and remained within a stable household over many decades, living long enough to see many of her grandchildren grow. After emigrating, the family settled first in Illinois and later in Clinton, Iowa, where Hannah lived for the remainder of her life. She appears consistently in census and other records as part of a family that stayed together geographically and socially, establishing long-term roots in one place.

Although Hannah's later life in the United States can be followed with confidence, her origins in Ireland remain only partially understood, with some evidence pointing toward family connections that have not yet been verified in local records. Parish records identify her by name at the time of her marriage and through the baptisms of her children, but her parents and siblings have not yet been identified.

Speculative Narrative:

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Time Line:

1805 - Birth at Newport, Tipperary, Ireland.[1]

28 Feb 1835 Marriage to Joseph Sheppard (1802 - 1882) at Newport, Tipperary, Ireland.[2] Witness: Edmund Hartigan and Catherine Sheppard.

11 Feb 1836 - Birth of son James T Sheppard (1836-1917) at Newport, Tipperary, Ireland.[3]

May 1837 - Birth of son John Sheppard (1837 - 1890) at Newport, Tipperary, Ireland.[4]

13 Oct 1939 - Birth of son David Sheppard (1839-) at Newport, Tipperary, Ireland.[5]

Aug 1842 - Birth of daughter Mary Sheppard (1842 -) at Newport, Tipperary, Ireland.[6]

Aug 1842 - Birth of daughter Bridget Sheppard (1844 - 1872) at Newport, Tipperary, Ireland.[7]

Context: County Tipperary during the Famine Years

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[1] Birth Record

[2] Ireland, Catholic Parish Registers, 1655-1915

[3] "Ireland, Catholic Parish Registers, 1740-1900", database, *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:6NQ5-4G76: 28 August 2023), Hanna Hartigan in entry for James Shepperd, 1836.

[4] Birth of son John Sheppard

[5] "Ireland, Catholic Parish Registers, 1740-1900", database, *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:6NQW-RJ17: 28 August 2023), Hanna Hartigan in entry for David Sheppard, 1839.

[6] Birth of daughter Mary Sheppard

[7] "Ireland, Catholic Parish Registers, 1740-1900", database, *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:6681-K3FC: 28 August 2023), Hanora Hartigan in entry for Bridget Shepard, 1844.

Hannah Hartigan Sheppard lived in County Tipperary during the years of the Great Famine. Her last known child was baptized shortly before the onset of the famine. Tipperary was heavily affected, with widespread crop failure, food shortages, starvation, and population loss, particularly in rural areas. Emigration from the county increased sharply during the late 1840s, and many families left in stages as conditions worsened. No records have been identified that describe how these events affected Hannah or her family directly, but the timing places her life in Tipperary during a period of severe disruption.

1842 - Arrival

1843 - Living in Sterling, Iowa

1860 - Arrival

4 Oct 1859 - Selected US Naturalization Index living at Rockdale, Iowa[8]

From this point forward, Hannah appears consistently in census and household records, allowing her later life to be followed with little interruption.

1860 - US Census at Clinton, Clinton, Iowa.[9]

Joseph Sheppard, 57

Hannah Sheppard, 50

James Sheppard, 23

Bridget Sheppard, 13

[8] Selected U.S. Naturalization Record Indexes, 1791-1966 (Indexed in World Archives Project); Joseph Sheppard

[9] "United States Census, 1860", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M825-9X6: Mon Jul 08 06:56:27 UTC 2024), Entry for Joseph Sheppard and Hannah Sheppard, 1860.

1870 - US Census at Clinton, Clinton, Iowa.[10]

Joseph Sheppard, 68

Hannah Sheppard, 63

Bridget Sheppard, 26

6 Jun 1872 - Death of daughter Bridget Sheppard (1844 - 1872) at Clinton, Clinton, Iowa.[11]

1880 - US Census at Clinton, Clinton, Iowa.[12]

Joseph Sheppard - white, male, age 78, born Ireland, parent born Ireland.

Hannah Sheppard - white, female, age 76, born Ireland, parents born Ireland.

1 Sep 1882 - Death of husband Joseph Sheppard (1802 - 1882) at Clinton, Clinton, Iowa.[13]

1885 - Iowa State Census at Clinton, Clinton, Iowa.[14]

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[10] "United States Census, 1870", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MDJR-6CK: Mon Jul 08 13:07:08 UTC 2024), Entry for Joseph Sheppard and Hannah Sheppard, 1870.

[11] "Find a Grave Index," database, *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVV3-XF23: 9 June 2021), Bridget Sheppard Kennedy, ; Burial, Clinton, Clinton, Iowa, United States of America, Saint Mary's Cemetery; citing record ID 6262779, *Find a Grave*, http://www.findagrave.com.

[12] "United States Census, 1880", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MD23-YT1: Sat Mar 09 03:48:19 UTC 2024), Entry for Joseph Sheppard and Hannah Sheppard, 1880.

[13] "Iowa, Death Records, 1888-1904", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:6R49-JBJV: 9 January 2024), Joseph Shepherd, 1882.

[14] Iowa State Census Collection, 1836-1925; Birth date: abt 1807 Birth place: Ireland Residence date: 1885 Residence place: Clinton Ward 3

James Shepord, 47

Ellen Shepord, 40

Joseph Shepord, 23

Mary Shepord, 23

John Shepord, 12

James Shepord, 17

Lizzie Shepord, 7

Gertie Shepord, 5

Chas Shepord, 3

Thomas Shepord, 0

Hannah Shepord, 78

15 Aug 1890 - Death of son John Sheppard (1837 - 1890) at Clinton, Clinton, Iowa.[15]

23 Dec 1890 - Death at Clinton, Clinton, Iowa.[16]

Dec 1890 - Obituary

"A home was saddened on Seventh avenue Tuesday by the death of an aged and respected lady, Mrs. Sheppard, mother of James Sheppard, with whom she resided. Her demise had been expected for some time, as old age had rendered her very feeble. The funeral will probably occur on Thursday morning.

The Clinton Age

December 26, 1890."

[15] "Iowa, Death Records, 1888-1904", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:6R49-HLG1: 9 January 2024), John Sheppard, 1890.

[16] Death record

Dec 1890- Burial at St. Mary's Cemetery at Clinton, Clinton, Iowa.[17]

[17] "Find a Grave Index," database, *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVK3-8L8B: 20 May 2020), Hannah Hartigan Sheppard, 1890; Burial, , ; citing record ID , *Find a Grave*, http://www.findagrave.com.